

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, and 6-13 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 2 is amended and claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Nguyen to Applicants' representative during the February 16, 2005 personal interview. The points discussed during the personal interview are incorporated herein.

Applicants also appreciate the indication that claims 5-9, 11 and 13 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

CLAIMS 2-4 AND 6-13 DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action objects to claim 2 due to informalities and rejects claims 2-4, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable to Hofele et al. in view of Vanderzee et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 is amended to address the objection. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to claim 2 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 2-4, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, claim 2 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5 which the Office Action indicated contains allowable subject matter. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is now in condition for allowance. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 is respectfully requested. In addition, withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 3, 4 and 6-13 is also respectfully requested.

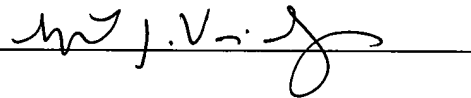
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnest solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 15, 2005

HOGAN & HARTSON LLP
555 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-5600

By: 

Ajit J. Vaidya
Reg. No. 43,214

Customer No. 24,633